

To: binetti, victoria[binetti.victoria@epa.gov]; Capacasa, Jon[Capacasa.jon@epa.gov]; Arguto, William[Arguto.William@epa.gov]
From: White, Terri-A
Sent: Fri 2/21/2014 7:05:40 PM
Subject: RE: West Virginia spill questions

Vicky, Thanks!

From: binetti, victoria
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 1:48 PM
To: White, Terri-A; Capacasa, Jon; Arguto, William
Subject: RE: West Virginia spill questions

Terri, see draft responses below. Bill, Jon, any comments?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Thanks,

Caroline

Caroline Behringer

Deputy Press Secretary

Office of the Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office: (202) 564-0098

Cell: (202) 760-1732

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 6:29 PM

To: Behringer, Caroline

Subject: RE: West Virginia spill questions

Thanks Caroline – can you please send me the draft document or a description from WVAW . Was this in response to an EPA inquiry on this? Why did the EPA make that inquiry? Is there concern about the method (I have heard from an outside scientist some concerns)? Can you please send me all correspondence between the EPA and WVAW on this? Thanks.

From: Behringer, Caroline [<mailto:Behringer.Caroline@epa.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 3:26 PM
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: West Virginia spill questions

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

In response to your questions to our Region 3 office, I'm including some information below. I'm also attaching the two reports you requested, and we're working on a response to your question about chemicals in pipes.

In WV we would like to know what is the EPA's involvement in terms of understanding why there still appears to be an odor from MCHM in some places in Charleston and some lingering health effects being reported.

EPA received a draft summary document from West Virginia American Water Company (WVAWC) on February 18, 2014, which describes the approach, and the science behind the approach, WVAWC took in concluding that their flushing method would be effective in removing MCHM from the water distribution system. EPA is conducting an internal review of the document. (see additional information below about MCHM odor at the tank site)

What work is the EPA still doing in West Virginia and what do they understand at this point about the situation?

An EPA On-Scene Coordinator has been on the ground in Charleston at the Freedom Industries tank farm, where the spill occurred since day-two of the response. The site is stabilized and work continues to control the source of the contamination at the site. EPA has observed the emptying of the leaked tank and its two companion tanks. The remaining 14 tanks are being systematically emptied. The collection trenches, sumps and collection piping are collecting the water and remaining chemical that was under the leaked tank. EPA's OSC has reported that the snow and rain have generated considerable amounts of water through the facility, both surface and subsurface water. EPA, WV Department of Environmental Protection and Freedom Industries have sampled the water collected from several points on the site, which are being analyzed. The collection mechanisms have been effective in containing the water that continues to seep from the site. The facility has hired a contractor to develop a long term remediation plan to find and remove any residual contamination.

EPA's OSC anticipates reports of odor complaints when tanks are moved, during excavation, and also as the weather warms up. The odor is present on site, however, in colder temperatures the odor diminishes at the perimeter of the facility, according to EPA's OSC. WVDEP has requested EPA to do air monitoring around the site during the removal of three specific tanks that did not contain MCHM and PHH. EPA's air monitoring analytical method is under development.

Do you know who came up with the flushing instructions to residents – was the EPA involved in that and what research was that based on?

The State and West Virginia American Water Company (WVAWC) developed a flushing protocol for homeowners to flush their household plumbing.

Thanks,

Caroline

Caroline Behringer

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